

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
800 Lafayette St., Suite 4900
Lafayette, LA 70501

REBECCA F. DOHERTY
U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE

Phone (337) 593-5050

LETTER TO COUNSEL

In Re: Actos (Pioglitazone) Products Liability Litigation
Case No. 6:11-md- 2299

Welcome to the Western District of Louisiana; we look forward to working with you in a true spirit of cooperation, professionalism, and, perhaps innovation. We have been diligently working since accepting this case to assemble our team and establish our procedures for working within this case.

We had hoped to have our initial status conference within the first week of February; however, as there are multiple cases pending before the MDL Panel for transfer, we have decided it best to await, at least, these initial transfer rulings. Consequently, our first general status conference, likely, will be March 22, 2012 - beginning at 9:45 a.m. Central Standard Time and continuing for the day. You will receive additional instruction as to the agenda and filings you will need to make in preparation for that meeting.

In an effort to give you as much lead time as possible - as we are aware, that although the food is excellent, the people friendly, and the area rich in culture, the airport is small by city standards - consequently, we are now giving you the likely meeting dates for the coming year. Although each of you may not need to appear and, hopefully, some of the meetings will be held via video conferencing, we hope advance notice will be of benefit. The anticipated dates for monthly conferences are as follows:

April 19 and/or 20
May 24 and/or 25
June 21 and/or 22
July 27
August 23 and/or 24
September 20 and/or 21
October 26
November 15 and/or 16
December 13 and/or 14

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In the meantime, with this letter, we hope to answer some of your immediate questions. Enclosed is the First General Order which will apply in all MDL cases, transfer, tag-along, and direct filed cases which might be deemed Related to the initial MDL. Hopefully this order will answer most, if not all, of your threshold questions.

We look forward to working with you on this case and are truly excited about the opportunities this case presents for us all.

Sincerely,



REBECCA F. DOHERTY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE